

Lodging Information

(Below are questions that previous incoming interns had concerning their move to Hawai'i and the Graduate Medical Office response to these questions. Please review the following to see if your question has been answered before.)

Question: A resident at Tripler told me that we would stay at the Alana Doubletree in Waikiki and that we wouldn't need to worry about the certificate of non-availability. Is that true?

Response: It is not true. You obviously talked to an old-timer whose class did stay at the Alana Doubletree one year. The Alana Doubletree discontinued the arrangement because it found that it could do better filling its rooms with tourists or soldiers with certificates of non-availability from the Inn at Schofield. The two years that the residents stayed at the Alana Doubletree the hotel matched the Inn at Schofield's room rate. The residents that stayed at the Alana those years did not have certificates of non-availability because rooms were actually available at the Inn at Schofield. The Alana Doubletree can charge soldiers who have certificates of non-availability from the Inn at Schofield more for its rooms. The rate they charge is usually the upper limit of the TLA (temporary lodging allowance) which is higher than the room rates charged by the Inn at Schofield.

Question: How long should I make the hotel reservation for? Two weeks, one month? June 1st until?

Response: I would book the hotel for at least 30 days if possible to give you breathing room to find a place to live. Coordinate with the military lodging facility or TLA hotel regarding its specific policy.

Question: I don't want to stay at Tripler Lodging or The Inn at Schofield. But when I called there I was told that rooms were available. What can I do?

Response:

You may stay at a TLA approved hotel even if rooms are available at one of the two Army lodging facilities. You would have to pay the difference between the hotel's room rate and what you would have been charged by Tripler Lodging or The Inn at Schofield. See the section on the Hale Koa Hotel below for a couple of scenarios regarding potential out-of-pocket expenses.

Hint: Think about booking a reservation where you prefer to stay before you call Tripler Lodging. If you are told that rooms are available when you call Tripler Lodging simply thank the person who answers the phone for the information and tell them you will call back if you decide to stay there. (It is not necessary to give the Tripler Lodging staff your name when you call to inquire.) Wait a few days and call back to see if Tripler Lodging filled up. If so, ask to be provided with a statement of non-availability.

You can try this same strategy with The Inn at Schofield. Don't forget about factoring in your BAH when you make your decision on where to stay.

You are not required to stay in temporary military lodging. However, your TLA reimbursement for lodging may be limited if military lodging is available and you do not accept it.

You must receive a partial statement of non-availability from Tripler Lodging and a full statement of non-availability from the Inn at Schofield in order to be entitled to the maximum TLA if you don't stay in temporary military lodging.

You don't need a statement of non-availability if you decide to stay at any of the military lodging facilities listed below.

Tripler Lodging (Tripler Army Medical Center)

Phone: (808) 839-2336

FAX: (808) 433-6905

The Inn at Schofield (Schofield Barracks)

Phone: Toll free 1-800-490-9638 or (808) 624-9650

FAX: (808) 624-5606

Email: info@innatschofield.com

Navy Lodge Hawai'i (Ford Island)

Phone: (808) 440-2290

FAX: (808) 455-7480

The Lodge at Kaneohe Bay (Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Bldg #3038)

Phone: (808) 254-2806

FAX: 808-254-2716

Royal Alakai Inn (Hickam Air Force Base)

Phone: (808) 448-5400

Fax: (808) 448-5999

Stays are limited to three (3) days. You may be able to extend your stay day-by-day. Therefore, you may want to consider other accommodations.

There may be some advantages to staying in military lodging. For example, Tripler Lodging is located within walking distance of the hospital, which has a dining facility. The Inn at Schofield Barracks, while located about 20 miles from Tripler, provides shuttle service to and from the hospital as well as airport pickup. And it is within easy walking distance of many activities and facilities. However, traffic can be difficult to negotiate at rush hour to and from Schofield Barracks. And it isn't that convenient if you are looking for permanent housing near Honolulu or on the windward side of the island.

The Navy Lodge Hawaii on historic Ford Island and Pearl Harbor is a new facility and a relatively easy commute to Tripler. You do not need a statement of non-availability to book a reservation there or have your lodging expenses reimbursed. The daily rate for a standard room with 2 queen beds is \$86. Suites are also available; these are larger rooms with 2 queen beds and a sofa bed. The charge is \$99 per day.

The Lodge at Kaneohe Bay has easy access to the H-3 interstate highway and is about a 30-45 minute commute to Tripler. Traffic only starts becoming congested once you leave the H-3 and approach the hospital. If you are interested in living on the windward side of the island, e.g., Kailua or Kaneohe, the Lodge at Kaneohe Bay is a very convenient location to stay while you search for a place to live. You do not need a statement of non-availability to book a reservation there or have your lodging expenses reimbursed. Standard rooms have 2 queen beds and run \$86 per night.

You don't have to pay any extra for parking at the military lodging facilities.

Important note: Stays at military lodges may be limited to a maximum number of days following your arrival. Inquire about the policy when you check in and plan ahead. You wouldn't want to be in the middle of an ICU rotation and have to worry about moving to a different lodging facility.

Question: How do I make reservations for TLA?

Response:

Your first step in obtaining temporary lodging is to figure out where you want to stay. If you want to stay at any of the military lodging facilities listed above the next step is to call and book a reservation. You should incur no out of pocket expenses for lodging if you stay at any of these facilities. Contrary to what you may have heard or been told before, you do not have to call Tripler Lodging or The Inn at Schofield before you book a reservation at the Navy Lodge Hawaii or Lodge at Kaneohe Bay. You do not need a statement of non-availability to stay at the Navy Lodge Hawaii or Lodge at Kaneohe Bay.

If you do not want to stay in military lodging your next step is to call Tripler Lodging. Tripler Lodging essentially has the right of first refusal, i.e., if rooms are available at Tripler Lodging you have to stay there or your TLA will be limited to what Tripler Lodging normally charges for its rooms. Currently, Tripler Lodging charges \$49 a day plus \$5 per additional person.

If rooms are not available at Tripler Lodging you will be given a partial statement of non-availability and referred to The Inn at Schofield. Take or fax a copy of your orders to Tripler Lodging to obtain your partial statement of non-availability.

If rooms are not available at Tripler Lodging your next step in obtaining temporary housing is to call The Inn at Schofield. If rooms are available at The Inn and you decide not to stay there your TLA reimbursement for lodging expenses will be limited to what The Inn charges. Currently, The Inn charges incoming unaccompanied personnel \$71.36 a day and an incoming accompanied soldier with a spouse and up to two children in the same room \$98.96 per day. So if a room is available at The Inn and you decide to stay at a hotel in Honolulu such as the Hale Koa, you will have to make up any difference out of your own pocket. The difference in costs may or may not be significant, depending on the size of your family and the number of rooms that you may need.

If rooms are not available at The Inn at Schofield you will be given a full statement of non-availability and referred to a TLA approved hotel. The Inn may offer you some assistance in obtaining a reservation locally. Take or fax a copy of your orders to The Inn at Schofield to obtain your full statement of non-availability. If rooms are available and you decide not to stay at The Inn at Schofield, you will be limited on the amount of TLA that you receive and may have to bear some out of pocket expense for lodging.

Question: When does my TLA end?

Response:

Your TLA ends on the day that Government quarters become available for occupancy or earlier if should you rent or purchase a home. If you are offered Government quarters and turn those down your TLA will stop. You will, however, continue to receive your BAH.

You may be able to get an extension of your TLA beyond the initial authorized period if you do not have permanent housing. These extensions must be coordinated through the same offices that authorize TLA to begin with.

The Army Hawaii Family Housing Office on Ft. Shafter, Bldg 344, Montgomery Drive, telephone (808) 275-3800, authorizes TLA for accompanied personnel. The Unaccompanied Personnel Housing Office on Schofield Barracks, Bldg 692, McCornack Street, telephone (808) 655-0535, authorizes TLA for unaccompanied personnel.

Question: Can I/we stay in a hotel instead of staying in temporary military lodging?

Response:

If you decide not to stay in temporary military lodging or it is not available, you must stay at a TLA approved hotel or you will not receive any reimbursement for lodging. The vast majority of hotels are TLA approved. We encourage you to call the

various TLA hotels on island to ensure that you find a convenient location at minimum expense.

Hotels may only have a limited number of rooms available for the TLA rate. So if you make a reservation at a TLA hotel ensure up front that you will only be charged the TLA rate to avoid any problems. Also, don't forget to ask about additional fees such as taxes and parking.

Bed and breakfast facilities are not approved TLA hotels so if you stay at one you will not receive TLA reimbursement for lodging. The rationale is that many of these facilities may not meet minimum acceptable standards for accommodations. You will also not receive TLA reimbursement for lodging if you stay with other family or friends. However, you will receive your TLA meal allowance no matter where you stay as long as you have not turned down Government quarters.

These TLA hotels are located in relatively close proximity to Tripler near the airport and away from the hustle and bustle of Waikiki. Consequently, you may reduce the time that you spend commuting to and from the hospital. Please do not consider our listing to be an endorsement of these particular hotels:

Best Western Plaza Hotel

3253 N. Nimitz Highway

Toll free 1-800-800-4683 or (808) 836-3636

Fax: (808) 834-7406

Email: les@plazahonolulu.com or info@bestwesternhonolulu.com

Honolulu Airport Hotel

3401 N. Nimitz Highway

Toll free 1-800-800-3477 or (808) 836-0661

Fax: (808) 833-1738

Email: les@plazahonolulu.com or hahres@plazahonolulu.com

Question: What will my out of pocket lodging expense be if I stay at the Hale Koa Hotel without a statement of non-availability?

Response:

Ft. DeRussy Armed Forces Recreation Center is the home of the Hale Koa, or House of the Warrior, an 817 room, world-class resort hotel and favorite rest and recreation destination for our country's military personnel. The room rates range from \$109 to \$198 per day depending on the type of room that you occupy, e.g., standard or ocean front.

The Hale Koa Hotel is a TLA approved hotel. It is not classified as military lodging so you will need at least a partial statement of non-availability from Tripler

Lodging to avoid any significant out of pocket lodging expenses if you decide to stay there and can get a reservation.

The Hale Koa's website indicates that reservations are limited to 30 days.

Hale Koa Hotel

2055 Kalia Road

Toll free **1-800-367-6027** (CONUS) or **(808) 955-0555**

Fax: (808) 955-9670

Email: reservations@halekoa.com or information@halekoa.com

Remember, you must receive a partial statement of non-availability from Tripler Lodging and a full statement of non-availability from The Inn at Schofield in order to be entitled to the maximum TLA.

Whether you are unaccompanied or accompanied by a family member, you only need a partial statement of non-availability from Tripler Lodging before making reservations at the Hale Koa Hotel in order to avoid any significant out of pocket expenses for lodging. That is because the standard room rates at the Hale Koa are about \$10 to \$12 more than the rates for The Inn at Schofield. This difference increases if you opt for rooms with ocean views.

When you call to book a reservation at the Hale Koa please don't forget to tell the reservation staff that you are PCSing to Hawaii so that you get the best rate.

The following table is based on the standard room rates currently posted on the Hale Koa Hotel's website and does not factor taxes or parking, i.e., it is only a good guess:

<i>No partial statement of non-availability from Tripler Lodging</i>			
Daily Room Rates			
	Tripler Lodging	Hale Koa Hotel	Daily Out of Pocket Lodging Expense
Double Occupancy	\$54.00	\$109.00	\$55.00
Single	\$49.00	\$83.50	\$34.50
<i>Partial statement of non-availability from Tripler Lodging; No full statement of non-availability from The Inn at Schofield</i>			
Daily Room Rates			
	The Inn at Schofield	Hale Koa Hotel	Daily Out of Pocket Lodging Expense
Double Occupancy	\$98.96	\$109.00	\$10.04
Single	\$71.36	\$83.50	\$12.14

This page was last updated on 26 April 2007.